

have been nine schools that have closed in the last approximately eight years. Ladies and gentlemen, I think that Senator Lamb is right, I think Senator Chambers is right, I think Senator Withem is right, I think Senator Ashford has a point. (Laughter.) But it is a very good point. I don't believe that all the terrible things that he feels will happen will happen. But, whether or not it is an elitist district or not, those individuals who are in that district deserve the opportunity to address an issue such as this. And since I've filed this motion I have talked to Senator Withem about what would happen should this legislation be enacted, what would be the process that would take place before OPS could swallow up District 66, and he explained that to me. And I asked him if, I yield him a few minutes, would he explain that to the body, and he said he would. With that, I would yield a few minutes to Senator Withem, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Senator Withem, please.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes. How much time of Senator Hall's 10 minutes is left?

PRESIDENT: You have three minutes left.

SENATOR WITHEM: Of the 10 minutes?

PRESIDENT: Excuse me. That is right, you have eight minutes.

SENATOR WITHEM: Oh, okay, fine. I don't want to take all of the eight minutes, and I want to give Senator Hall a moment or two to react to what I had to say. One more time to tell you why I don't fear the amendment that was placed on and I guess why I don't think it is the type to address Senator Hall's motion, why I don't think it is the type of substantive change in the bill that would necessitate a new public hearing. What this does, basically once again 444 is a process bill. LB 444 could pass 49 to nothing and absolutely nothing in the state could change because it would have to be initiated on the local level. For District 66, or Millard, or Ralston, or any school district, Broken Bow, a little Class I outside of Chadron, any of those to be negatively effected by 444 several things need to happen. First of all the county reorganization... First of all it could be done through a petition process. We could have all of the citizens of District 66, 50 percent of them, petition to be brought into the Omaha public system. It is not likely to happen, but that is one of the things we are allowing to happen